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RURAL DISTRICT
OF
CALNE & CHIPPENHAM

1917

RURAL DISTRICT

OF

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

5, High Street,
Chippenham.

Tel: Chippenham 2821 Extn.49.

Also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury and the Rural District of Malmesbury. Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

(b) SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

* H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(c) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

* A.F.M. Howard, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

* S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

* E.J. Silvester, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

* Qualifications held by these Officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to buildings and public works of the Royal Sanitary Institute. (Note, the Royal Sanitary Institute is now known as the Royal Society of Health).

(d) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(e) Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee
Public Health Committee
Housing Committee.

These committees meet every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.

The Chairman & Members,
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1964 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The birth rate is higher for 1964 (21.9 per 1000 of the population) as compared with the rate of 20.4 per 1000 of the population for 1963, and the death rate is lower (9.1 per 1000 of the population) as compared with 10.1 per 1000 of the population for 1963. The still birth rate is also lower this year, but there was a slight increase of the Infant Mortality Rate; this is of little statistical significance in view of the small numbers involved.

Deaths due to Cancer, Heart Disease and Coronary disease collectively, accounted for 50% of the total deaths registered in the Rural District during 1964.

Apart from a comparatively minor outbreak of Measles and sporadic cases of bacillary dysentery, the rural district enjoyed freedom from notifiable infectious disease, particularly from the more serious infectious diseases such as Poliomyelitis.

The sporadic cases of bacillary dysentery which come to attention year after year occasion much administrative work and cost in preventive measures. The prevention of this disease is simply a matter of personal hygiene, particularly by parents of young children and those engaged in the preparation and production of food. The interruption of the education of school children and the loss of wages of food handlers and the cost to the National Health Service could be avoided were the general public to pay scrupulous attention to a high standard of personal hygiene at all times.

The report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. H.J. Taylor, is incorporated and provides detailed information on environmental public health within the rural district.

I am grateful to Mr. Hales, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Witham, Mr. Baugh and the staff of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,
C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)85,388
Population34,170
No. of inhabited houses(end of 1964 according to the Rate Book)	8,188
Rateable Value	£891,743
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£3470

VITAL STATISTICS.LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .	330	304	634
Illegitimate	19	19	38
Total	349	323	672

Crude birth rate for the district.....	19.6
per 1000 of the population.	
Adjusted birth rate for the district.....	21.9
per 1000 of the population.	
Comparative rate for England & Wales.....	18.4
per 1000 of the population.	

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth rate and death rate for the district are to be multiplied by area comparability factors given by the Registrar General. The above statistics have been so corrected.

STILL BIRTHS

Fifteen still births were notified during 1964. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 21.8. The comparative rate for England & Wales is given by the Registrar General as 16.3

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	8	11	19
Under 4 weeks	6	9	15
Under 1 week	6	9	15.

Infant mortality rate for the district.....	28.9.
Comparative rate for England & Wales	20.0

DEATHS

Deaths occurring in the Rural District during 1964 were as follows:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
133	112	245

Crude death rate for the district.....7.1
per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted death rate for the district.....9.1
per 1000 of the population.
Comparative rate for England & Wales..... 11.3
per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	1	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	9	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	2	5
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	16	30
Coronary disease, angina	32	22	54
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	15	13	28
Other circulatory disease	1	8	9
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoeal	-	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	4	5
Other defined and illdefined diseases	12	11	23
Motor vehicle accidents	8	1	9
All other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	2	2	4
TOTALS:-	<u>133</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>245</u>

Cases of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, are shown in the following table. Comparative figures are included for the years 1961, 1962 and 1963.

DISEASE	1961		1962		1963		1964	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	6	6	3	3	2	2	7	7
Whooping Cough	13	13	-	-	-	-	44	44
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	534	534	60	60	539	539	128	128
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	83	83	40	40
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	4	7	7	5	5	-	-
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1
Salmonella Infections	-	-	-	-	15	15	1	1
TOTALS:-	557	557	72	71	647	646	223	222

a= Numbers originally notified.

b= Final numbers after correction.

TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases of tuberculosis were notified and confirmed during 1964. Two cases were found to be suffering from the respiratory form of the disease, and the remaining three cases were suffering from the non-respiratory type of tuberculosis.

No deaths occurred during the year due to this disease.

In addition to the new cases notified during the year, a small number of tuberculous persons either move into the district, or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified and confirmed cases of tuberculosis were living in the Rural District at the end of 1964.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	59	42	101
Non-Pulmonary	21	28	49
TOTAL	80	70	150

A total of 145 tuberculous persons were on the Register at the end of 1963.

Vaccination and Immunisation

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The Wiltshire County Council, as a Local Health Authority, is responsible for the formation of schemes for the immunisation of children against certain infectious diseases. I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation.

<u>Year of birth</u>		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955	1950
							1959	1954
Primary imms. completed during 1964.	Diph.	205	247	31	9	5	29	1
	Wh/c	202	245	30	6	5	7	1
	Tet.	205	247	31	9	7	80	47
Reinf.injects. administered during 1964.	Diph.	-	63	139	36	30	410	10
	Wh/c	-	46	104	31	16	31	2
	Tet.	-	63	140	38	30	330	46

Vaccination against Smallpox.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Months.</u>				<u>Years.</u>			
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15 +
Vaccinatuons	8	13	14	20	118	20	8	24
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	4	61	65	117.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis.

<u>Age Group</u>	2nd. inj.	3rd inj.	4th inj.	3 oral doses.	3 oral after 2 inj.	4 oral after 2 inj & 1 oral.	4 oral after 3 inj or 3 oral.
1964	1	-	-	59	1	-	-
1963	-	-	-	277	2	1	-
1962	-	1	-	78	-	-	-
1961	-	-	-	21	-	14	2
1943-1960	-	1	-	90	1	38	328
1933-1942	-	-	-	30	-	-	1
Others	1	1	-	23	-	-	3
Totals	2	3	-	578	4	53	334

Immunisation (additional detail)

The primary diphtheria immunisation state for babies born in the rural district during 1963 and immunised up to the 31st. December, 1964 is as follows. Most of these children would at the same time have also been immunised against whooping cough and tetanus.

1963 babies immunised up to 31.12.64.	1963 births.	%
425	619	68.7.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

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The following are extracts taken from the Annual Report of the Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, Mr. R.A. Witham, for the year 1964.

CAPITAL WORKS

Schemes in Hand or Completed in 1964.

Box - Stage 111 Cost - £21,717

Contractors: Clark Bros (Swindon) Ltd.

This scheme which is the final stage of the sewerage of Box has now been completed.

North Eastern Sewerage - Stage 1 Cost £211,892.

Contractors: The Hadsphaltic Construction Co. Ltd.

Works commenced in the late summer and is due to be completed in two years. It includes the disposal works and the sewers in the villages of Sutton Benger, Seagry, Kington Langley, Kington St. Michael and Christian Malford. Sewage from Startley in the Malmesbury Rural District will be taken into this scheme by agreement between the two Authorities.

Upper Seagry. Cost - £1,670.

Contractors: Smith & Lacey Ltd.

The existing small disposal works have been enlarged to cope with the additional Council and private houses and the new school. The County Council have contributed to the cost for the facilities afforded for the school. The scheme is now completed.

Hilmarton and Goatacre. Cost £47,570.

Contractors: The Avonmouth Plant and Construction Co. Ltd.

Work on this scheme commenced just before the close of the year.

Mile Elm, Stage 11. Cost £6,529.

Contractors: Smith & Lacey Ltd.

This is the final stage of the scheme for Mile End and has now been completed.

Schemes to be Commenced in 1965.

North Eastern Sewerage Scheme - Stage 11. Estimated cost £98,000. This will be the final stage of this scheme and is due to commence late in the year. It covers East Tytherton, Foxham and Dountsey Lock. Sewage from the village of Dountsey in the Malmesbury Rural District will be taken into this scheme by agreement between the two Authorities.

Grittleton Sewerage Scheme. Estimated cost £29,000. Tenders for this scheme will be invited in the spring or early summer. Due to staff shortages this scheme has been delayed. It was hoped to commence work at the end of 1964 or beginning of 1965.

Pewsham Sewerage. Estimated cost £13,500.

This scheme will drain the lower end of Old Derry Hill and the property at Forest Gate. Tenders will be invited in the spring.

The Linleys, Corsham. Sewerage. Estimated cost £9,100.

In January, 1965 the Council have recommended to extend the scope of this scheme to include to top of Velley Hill and the built up part of Gastard Lane. The revised total cost is estimated at £23,100. Tenders will be invited later in the year.

Corsham Sewerage.

It was hoped to submit a scheme for improvements in the existing sewerage system in Corsham designed to avoid flooding and to cater for future development. Due to staff shortages this has not been possible, but proposals for extensive residential development at Rudloe and elsewhere have created an urgent problem and a report on the proposals will be presented as early as possible in the year.

Future Schemes Authorised by the Council.South Eastern Sewerage Scheme.

No progress on this scheme has been made during the year. Due to pressure of other work it is not anticipated that any material progress will take place during the coming year. The scheme is designed to deal with Cherhill, Heddington, Stockley, Theobalds Green and Sandy Lane.

Stanton St. Quinton Sewerage.

No progress has been made on this scheme and it is not anticipated that proposals will be forthcoming in 1965.

Colerne Sewage Disposal Works.

The enlargement of these works was a matter of urgency some years ago. Then due to change in circumstances at Colerne Aerodrome the immediate need for the scheme then prepared became less urgent and on the advice of the Minister of Housing & Local Government only part of the proposals were carried out. Subsequent development at the aerodrome has caused the works to be heavily overloaded although they continue to turn out a reasonable standard of effluent. A revised scheme for the enlargement of the works will be prepared and submitted to the Council during the coming year.

Progress.

As in last years report an appendix is attached showing the progress made in the original list of schemes approved by the Council in 1947. Although the Department have a busy time ahead in 1965 with current schemes the Council will probably be asked to select a further list of priorities towards the end of the year. In dealing with the preparation of major schemes administrative delays occur from time to time and it suits the efficient functioning of the department to have some smaller schemes in preparation which can be treated as "hospital" jobs.

Miscellaneous Matters.Trade Effluents.

Formal agreements have now been entered into with seven firms for payment for the reception and treatment of trade effluents following the powers given to Local Authorities in the Public Health Act, 1961. It is anticipated the annual income to be collected will be about £350.

Adoption of Sewers.

The Council have agreed in principle to adopt as public sewers certain sewers on private housing estates. The question of treating sewers on Council housing estates in a similar manner is also to be considered. Details will be submitted early in 1965.

Cesspool Emptying.

Some economy in this service has been achieved by closer supervision of the system of working. When the service was first introduced in 1949 it was intended that the vehicle should be employed primarily on the Councils own work, the remainder of the time being spent on emptying private tanks. As the new sewerage schemes come into use the number of small Council house disposal plants will be reduced. There will, however, be no difficulty in employing the vehicle full time by increasing the amount of private work undertaken. The machine is a most useful piece of plant for emergency use in connection with general maintenance of the sewerage systems in the district and there will never come a time when its retention is not justified.

Construction of Sewers.

A new type of joint is being used for sewers now being laid. The old type of stoneware pipe in lengths of about 3 feet jointed in cement mortar which was used previously, is not materially different to that used by the Romans 2,000 years ago. The new pipes are in lengths of 5 feet and the joints are a combination of a plastic material and rubber ring.

The great advantage of this type of joint is that it is flexible and can reasonably guaranteed to be watertight. This enables pipes to be laid on a gravel bed in place of concrete and the trench to be backfilled close behind the pipes being laid, final testing taking place after the backfilling is complete. The result is that the length of trench open at one time is greatly reduced and remains open for a day or so instead of for at least a week.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

Schemes approved by the
Council in 1947.

	<u>Present position.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Corsham(reconstruction of sewers)	Completed	Further work now required.
Colerne	Completed	Extension of works now reqd.
Castle Combe	Completed	
Yatton Keynell	Completed	
Biddestone	Completed	
Box	Completed	
Kington St. Michael & Kington Langley.	Work Commenced.	Pt. of N.E.Sewerage Scheme stage 1.
Sutton Benger	"	"
Christian Malford	"	"
Cherhill	Preliminary work done.	Pt. of S.E. sewerage scheme.
Hilmarton & Goatacre	Work commenced.	
Grittleton	Approved by Minister	Tenders to be invited in 1965.
East Tytherton & Bremhill	"	Pt. of N.E. Scheme Stage 11.
Lacock(Reybridge, Notton & Bowden Hill)	----	
Langley Burrell	----	
Stanton St. Quinton	----	
Compton Bassett	----	
Heddington	Preliminary work done	Pt. of S.E. Scheme.
North Wraxall	----	
Pewsham	Approved by Minister	Tenders to be invited in 1965.
Nettleton	----	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL -contd.

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<u>Name of scheme.</u>	<u>Present Position.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------

Calne without (Derry Hill & Studley)	Completed.	
Chippenham without	-----	

Additional schemes added in 1959.

Burton	-----
Ford	-----
Littleton Drew	-----
West Kington	-----
Yatesbury	-----

HOUSING

I am grateful to Mr. O.J. Baugh, the Council's Housing Manager, for the following detail:-

1.	Total number of applicants on list at 31st December, 1964	392.
2.	Total number of applications received during 1964	194.
3.	(a) Total number rehoused in permanent houses, flats and retirement bungalows.	68.
	(b) In other accommodation	23
4.	Total number of applicants for retirement accommodation included in 1 above	78
5.	Evicted families:	
	(a) Number brought to notice	26
	(b) Number rehoused	16
6.	Number of units of accommodation built and occupied in 1964	
	(a) By the Council	
	Houses	62
	Flats	73
	R.Bs.	<u>15</u>
		150
	(b) By private enterprise	183

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF BUNGALOW ESTATES.1. SITE 1B

Good progress was made with the clearance of this site. A further 52 bungalows were closed during the year, leaving 24 still occupied out of an original total of 188.

2. RUDLOE ESTATE.

The last remaining bungalow on this estate was closed during the year.

The remainder of the building on Stage II was completed (i.e. 72 units of accommodation), and 12 units on Stage III were occupied.

3. BOXFIELDS ESTATES (RUN-DOWN)

Clearance continued, and all except 11 of the original total of 116 on Site II were cleared.

24 bungalows were also closed on Site IIA.

REPORT of the CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to report in greater detail on the various functions undertaken by the Public Health Department during 1964.

Housing.

In 1963 the Council completed the Five-Year Slum Clearance Survey, and 1964 saw the beginning of a new survey of unfit houses within the Rural District. As in past years, it was found advantageous to deal with unfit houses in selected parishes, and reports have been presented on such houses in the parishes of Biddestone, Box (part only), Christian Malford, Colerne, Hilmarton, North Wraxall, and Stanton St. Quintin.

The progress of slum clearance is being hampered by the shortage of alternative housing accommodation for families displaced from unfit houses, and the Council will have to give greater consideration to the availability of sites for new housing projects in parishes other than Corsham.

The demolition of the temporary war-time bungalows in Box and Corsham is proceeding satisfactorily, and 130 bungalows were demolished during 1964.

Improvement Grants.

In furtherance of the Council's policy for securing the improvement of the maximum number of properties with the help of Improvement Grants, the department has made every effort to encourage householders to make applications for Standard or Discretionary Grants, and advice on such schemes has been freely given. The response has been somewhat disappointing, but the number of formal applications for such grants has been up to the average for previous years.

Efforts by the Council to publicise these grants by film shows of "The Bronze Horse" at Calne, Chippenham, and Corsham, in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities, did not evoke much interest from the general public.

The provision of main drainage in the parishes of Hilmarton, Kington Langley, Kington St. Michael and Sutton Benger should ensure the submission of many new applications for grants, when these schemes are completed in 1966.

On the 16th August, the Housing Act, 1964, came into operation and for the first time some measure of compulsion for improvement grants was introduced. The compulsory improvement provisions are very complex, and difficult to apply in a rural district. The heading of "Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings" is somewhat misleading, the powers of compulsion being extremely limited, and a pre-requisite to any improvement is that the tenant must give his written, irrevocable consent to the improvements being carried out.

A duty is imposed on every local authority to cause an inspection of their district to be made from time to time, to ascertain whether any area ought to be declared an improvement area. Upon being satisfied that any area in their district contains dwellings lacking one or more of the standard amenities, of which at least one-half are so constructed that it is practicable to improve them to the full standard so that they will be fit for human habitation for not less than fifteen years, the local authority may declare the area an "improvement area".

The Act also introduces certain modifications and improvements to the existing grants, which should make them more desirable to householders. The most welcome of these, to my mind, is the raising of the Standard Grant limit under certain circumstances from £155.0.0. to £350.0.0.

The limit of £350.0.0. is now applicable if the works comprise, in connection with all or any of the amenities provided:

- (1) the bringing of a piped supply of cold water into the dwelling for the first time;
- (2) the provision of a bathroom, necessitating the building of a new structure or the adaptation of outbuildings for the purpose;
- (3) the provision of a water-closet requiring the installation of a septic tank system.

The introduction of a new provision enabling the cost of the employment of a professional adviser to rank as part of the improvement costs on which the Standard Grant is calculated, will be welcomed by applicants for such grants.

Other modifications, such as the substitution of five years for leaseholders, instead of fifteen years, and the reduction to three years instead of ten years of the period for which the conditions of a grant have to be observed, should further encourage the submission of applications for grants.

During 1964, Standard Grants to the value of £4,250.0.0. have been paid in respect of properties improved with the aid of such grants, whilst Discretionary Grants to the value of £16,816.0.0. have been made.

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
No. of Discretionary Grants approved ...	46	41
No. of properties improved with the aid of Discretionary Grants	48	48
No. of Standard Grants approved	37	43
No. of properties improved with the aid of Standard Grants	31	40

Caravans.

The policy of strong control over the stationing of caravans within the Rural District has continued during 1964, and only in exceptional cases are planning consent and public health licences given to the stationing of caravans on land in the area. Generally, such consents and licences are for temporary periods only, and issued mostly to applicants who wish to station a caravan on a private building site, pending the erection of a permanent dwelling on the land.

The provision of some 92 caravan standings on four caravan sites provided by the Council has been one of the principal reasons why the Council has been able to secure such tight control over the siting of caravans within the Rural District. The policy of the closure of unsuitable sites has continued, the occupiers of such sites being offered much more suitable alternative accommodation by the Council.

During the year, 25 vacancies have occurred on the Council's sites, the standings being re-occupied by applicants on the waiting list. The changeover on the sites is such as to ensure that the most urgent needs of applicants on the waiting list, who either reside or work within the area of the Council, can be met on one or other of these sites within a reasonable period of time.

The amenities on the Council's caravan sites have been satisfactorily maintained and a block of six lock-up garages were erected at Northleaze, Corsham. The Council has agreed to make provision for increased recreational amenities and sanitary facilities at the Northleaze site, in the 1965/6 estimates.

Public Cleansing Service.

The most urgent requirement of this service during 1964 has been the provision of additional land for the disposal of refuse by controlled tipping.

Owing to a serious fire at the refuse disposal site at Box Hill, and to the difficulty of obtaining other tipping facilities in that area, it became a matter of extreme urgency to find an alternative site. Fortunately, it was possible to agree on satisfactory terms with the owners of certain disused gravel pits at Sutton Benger and Lower Seagry for the lease of this land for controlled refuse disposal. This land should provide tipping facilities for a period of approximately five years, and therefore time has been gained whereby the Council can now give serious consideration to the long-term solution of the refuse disposal problem.

The Public Health Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the alternative methods of refuse disposal, and with the willing co-operation of several local authorities, visits of inspection of refuse disposal plants were made at Leamington Spa, Leatherhead, and Worthing Rural District. I also had the pleasure of inspecting a recently-constructed Incineration Plant at Crewe. The Sub-Committee thus had an opportunity of seeing two forms of refuse incinerators, a pulverisation plant, and a composting plant, and with this experience the Members will, in due time, be in a better position to make recommendations concerning the most suitable type of refuse disposal for this Council.

The Sub-Committee will not present a final report until a visit has been made to a completely new incineration plant in course of construction at Kidderminster, and which will become operational towards the end of the year.

Another important decision made by the Council concerning this service was the proposal to provide a new public cleansing depot. After prolonged negotiations, a site was ultimately secured at Bradford Road, Corsham.

It is a great problem to recruit men for this essential service, and during the past year it has been difficult to maintain the present working strength of seventeen men.

Public cleansing work is not very attractive to the average manual worker, and with a low basic wage it is understandable that it is so difficult to recruit men of the right calibre.

I would however, like to pay a tribute to those members of the existing labour force who have worked loyally on behalf of the Council for a number of years. These men have formed the backbone of the service, and but for their steadfastness the present service operated by the Council could not be maintained.

An uninformed minority of ratepayers has made demands for an improved refuse collection service, particularly with reference to collections on Bank Holidays, or arrangements for special collections in lieu thereof. These people are completely unaware of the difficulties involved in organising a service which operates on a balanced labour force of a strength only sufficient to fulfil the normal everyday requirements of the service.

The salvage service was partially re-organised to improve the service, and to increase the amount of paper collected. It has been very difficult to recruit labour to collect and bale this paper, and a number of changes in the labour force engaged on salvage has hampered the successful operation of this service. I am very disappointed with the results achieved, for I am satisfied that, given conscientious employees, the total amount of paper collected and baled would be far in excess of the 168 tons sent to the paper merchants in 1964.

The introduction of a twice-yearly collection of bulky refuse has proved a success and this new service should, in time, lead to a considerable reduction in the amount of bulky refuse which is indiscriminately littered over many parts of the district on commons and in ditches and woodlands, much to the disgust of people who enjoy the beauties of the English countryside.

Meat and Food Inspections.

Routine inspections of all food premises has continued, and I am glad to report that generally a high standard of hygiene is being maintained.

Regular visits have been made to the large poultry packing station at Sutton Benger, and good relations have been maintained with the factory manager and staff. The factory is well-managed and has a very high standard of hygiene.

In certain circles it is being suggested that a system of 100% inspection of poultry should operate, as exists in the meat industry. The Public Health Department is insufficiently staffed to enable a 100% inspection to operate at this factory, with such a high daily output of birds.

There are no registered slaughterhouses in the Rural District, but your Inspectors assisted with the inspection of meat at a large bacon factory in Chippenham during the absence on leave or sickness of the Borough Public Health Inspectors. Seven weeks in all were devoted to this work.

Sampling of Food and Water.

Regular sampling of milk, ice-cream and water supplies has been carried out during the year, and the details of the results are analysed later in this report. In addition, a limited amount of sampling of food products was undertaken for bacteriological examination. I feel that this is an important aspect of food inspection, and with the concurrence of the Public Health Laboratory Service, I would like to expand this work.

Sewer Connections.

I have pressed on with the work of connection of properties without satisfactory means of drainage disposal to the recently completed sewers in Box, Derry Hill, and Studley. Whilst progress in Box has been very good and 100% connection of properties without proper drainage has been achieved, progress in the Derry Hill and Studley areas has been somewhat slow due to a combination of circumstances. Most of the properties in these areas should be connected to the sewers by the end of 1965, by which time I am hoping to make some progress with properties in Hilmarton and Sutton Benger, where new sewers and sewage disposal works are under construction.

New Legislation.

Additional responsibilities have been placed upon local authorities by the passing of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. This Act makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people in such premises.

On and after 1st May 1964, anyone intending to employ people in office, shop, or railway premises, will be required to send a notification in the prescribed form to the authority responsible for enforcing the Act. The local authority must keep a register of certain premises and must organise a survey of such property in connection with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, seating arrangements, eating facilities, construction of floors, passages and stairs, fencing of exposed parts of machinery, cleansing of machinery, and provision of first aid equipment.

The registration and survey of premises in the Rural District is proceeding, but the task is incomplete and it will require 6-9 months of further effort before some 140 properties have been registered and surveyed.

The many other aspects of the work of the department are referred to in the body of the report, and I am happy to record a continued improvement in the public health environment of the Rural District. The standard of housing conditions is improving year by year, food premises and methods of handling and displaying foodstuffs are much more hygienic, the sources of supply and delivery of milk, ice-cream, and water are constantly under surveillance, and the general sanitary circumstances of the district are of a higher standard than ever before.

These accomplishments could not be achieved without the drive and initiative of the Council and all its officers, and in particular I would like to thank Dr. Broomhead for his advice and help, and the Public Health Department staff for a year of conscientious service.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

General Sanitation.

Water supply	88
Drainage	724
Stables, piggeries, etc.	41
Caravans, tents, etc.	436
Factories - power	13
" - non-power	--
Outworkers	--
Public conveniences	65
Theatres, village halls, etc.	5
Refuse and salvage collection	338
Refuse disposal	220
Litter	268
Rodent control	83
Atmospheric pollution	29
Schools	26
Shops (non-food)	2
Nuisances	122
Noise abatement	--
Knackers' yards	5
Petrol and carbide of calcium	53
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	85
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	314

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	18	
Re-visits to above houses		18
No. of houses inspected under Housing Acts	62	
Re-visits to above houses		186
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	1	
Re-visits to above houses		.5
No. of houses inspected re Improvement Grants	169	
Re-visits to above houses		205
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	11	
Re-visits to above premises		--
No. of inspections of houses infested by flies, etc.		15
Miscellaneous housing visits		278

Sampling.

Water samples	275
Sewage effluent samples	1
Milk samples, bottle rinses, etc.	236
Ice cream samples	84
Food samples	7

Meat and Food Inspections.

No. of visits to: Butchers	21
Bakehouses	12
Fried fish shops	6
Licensed premises	45
Canteens, cafes, restaurants, etc.	35
Dairies and milk distributors	25
Fishmongers and poulterers	1
Poultry packing stations	45
Grocers and general stores	58
Confectioners	1
Ice cream premises	19
Greengrocers and fruiterers	--
Stalls, vehicles, etc.	21
Miscellaneous food premises	90

Infectious Diseases.

No. of enquiries in cases of infectious diseases	65
No. of visits re disinfection	6
No. of miscellaneous infectious disease visits	176
No. of food poisoning enquiries	1

DRAINAGE.Survey of Chapel Knapp area, Corsham, in connection with Drainage Nuisance.

A survey of the drainage arrangements of a small group of dwellings adjoining Gastard House, revealed a serious drainage nuisance which could only be abated by a sewer extension to enable these properties to have the facilities of main drainage. A scheme for the area is on course of preparation by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Connection of House Drainage to Public Sewers.(a) Calne Without, Derry Hill and Studley.

At the end of 1963, 70 properties not provided with satisfactory means of drainage remained to be connected to the public sewers; the number has now been reduced to 33.

The rate of progress of connection has not been as great as I would wish, but the Estate who own the majority of these houses has preferred to improve many of their properties with the aid of Standard or Discretionary Grants, and therefore, with the shortage of building labour, the programme of connections has been somewhat curtailed.

(b) Mile Elm - Second Phase.

The second phase of this small sewerage scheme was completed during the year, and of the nine properties capable of connection to this sewer, six have been connected, and proposals for two other properties are under consideration.

(c) Box - Third Phase, Kingsdown Area.

The contract for the third and final phase for sewerage the Kingsdown area of Box was completed in 1964 and a very gratifying response from householders for permission to connect, has been received. At the end of December, 58 connections had been made; 31 other properties in the area are provided with satisfactory means of drainage.

(d) Box Hill.

During the year, nine additional properties in this area have been connected to the public sewers; ten still remain to be connected, of which six are subject to statutory housing action. The owners of three premises are unable to afford the cost of connection, and this work may have to be carried out by the Council in default.

(e) Box - Henley.

Of the 28 houses with unsatisfactory drainage in the Henley area, 25 had been connected to the sewer by 1st January 1964, and the remaining three have been connected this year.

(f) Box - Ashley.

All properties with unsatisfactory drainage have been connected to the sewer, with the exception of a group of five cottages, where negotiations with the owner are in progress.

(g) Box - Middle Hill.

Seven properties in Middle Hill remained to be connected to the sewers and during this year six of these have been connected. Statutory action for compulsory connection has been recommended in respect of the remaining property.

(h) Boxfields.

A small sewerage scheme extension for three groups of houses was completed during the year, and negotiations have been in hand to ensure that all houses are connected to this sewer. Unfortunately, all these houses have been put up for sale and the changes in ownership have retarded negotiations, but it is anticipated that all fifteen properties will be connected in the foreseeable future.

(i) Christian Malford and Sutton Benger.

In anticipation of the availability of public sewers in these parishes sometime in 1965, preliminary surveys are in hand to ascertain the sanitary circumstances of properties within these parishes.

Summary of Details of Sewer Connection Progress
in the aforementioned Areas.

Area.	No. of properties which can be connected to the sewer.	Satisfactory drainage.	Connected to the sewer.	Work in progress.	Unsatisfactory drainage.
Box - Middle Hill	41	18	22	Nil	1
" - Kingsdown	94	31	58	Nil	5
" - Henley	40	12	28	--	--
" - Boxfields	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	15
" - Box Hill	85	15	59	1	10
" - Ashley	57	9	43	Nil	5
Calne Without -					
Derry Hill and Studley	216	26	157	Nil	33
Mile Elm	9	--	6	Nil	3

LAND DRAINAGE ACT, 1961; Section 28.

Flooding at Avon, Foxham.

The essential improvement to the Avon Brook, to prevent serious flooding at the entrance to certain smallholdings, was completed by the Bristol Avon River Board, with some financial assistance from the Wilts County Council.

The invert of the Brook, in places, was lowered by some 18 inches and, provided no untreated farm drainage is permitted to drain into the Brook, there should be no fear of future flooding.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENTS.

All sampling of effluents from the various Council sewage disposal works is undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department through Mr. Hill, Chemist at the Thingley Sewage Disposal Works.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Less wanton damage has occurred at the five public conveniences since the decision of the Council to remove the coin boxes from the w.c. compartments.

The various conveniences have been satisfactorily maintained and provision has been made in the 1965/6 estimates for improved hand-washing facilities to be made available at Castle Combe and Iacock.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Every year, the organisation and management of this service makes greater demands on the administrative staff of the department.

The ratepayers demand and expect an efficient refuse collection service and it is extremely difficult to ensure, in a large rural district such as this, that an occasional minor breakdown in the service will not occur. This may be due to many causes: temporary labour shortage, generally through illness, vehicle breakdown, members of the collection crews overlooking partly-hidden dustbins, friction between collectors and householders over suitability or otherwise of refuse containers, deposit of stones and other gardening rejects in the dustbins, and so on.

Considering the nature and extent of the work, I am reasonably satisfied that the ratepayers receive value for money in this service; it would cost householders much more than a sixpenny rate if every resident in the district had to dispose of his or her own household refuse.

The following figures speak for themselves, but it is significant that in 1964 the mileage of the refuse collection vehicles was in the region of 71832 miles and some 7614 tons of refuse was collected. The tonnage of refuse does not increase materially, but the "bulk" of the refuse is much greater. This is due to the changing characteristics of household refuse, which increasingly consists of cardboard packets and containers, tins, polythene bags, and other forms of wrapping. The quantity of ashes collected is not sufficient to enable a thin layer of covering to form over the deposited refuse, which would enable the vehicles to pass over safely without fear of punctures.

I am sure that the time is not far distant when the present standard form of dustbin will become obsolete. Modern dustbins should have a greater cubic capacity but be constructed of a light, yet durable material. The increased "bulk" in refuse will necessitate the introduction of a weekly refuse collection, not on hygienic grounds but simply because the present household rejects cannot adequately be stored for seven days in existing 2½ cu.ft. dustbins. I am aware that there are other forms of storage containers for refuse, such as paper sacks, but until the Council radically changes its policy on the method of collection of refuse, this and other forms of container cannot be considered.

The labour force of the service has remained at seventeen men. In October the Council took delivery of a new 35 cu.yd. Shelvoke and Drewry "Pakamatic" refuse collection vehicle of the compression type. The fleet of refuse vehicles now includes:

One - Bedford,	12 cu.yd. (side loader),	purchased	1959
One - Shelvoke & Drewry,	18 cu.yd.,	"	1954
One - " " "	18 cu.yd. (with power press),	"	1961
One - " " "	35 cu.yd. (compression type),	"	1963
One - " " "	35 cu.yd. (" "),	"	1964
One - Bedford,	12 cu.yd. (converted to salvage vehicle),	"	1956

It is necessary to retain the side-loading refuse vehicle to collect from certain areas of Box and Colerne, where the width of the lanes and streets is too narrow for safe access by the larger vehicles.

The Council, for many years, has been fortunate in obtaining permission to use fairly deep quarries in the Box, Colerne and Yatesbury areas for the disposal of household refuse. The necessity to find alternative controlled tipping areas has brought about a more difficult

method of disposal in rather shallow, disused and water-filled gravel pits. In a comparatively short space of time a considerable area of these shallow excavations become filled, and the problem of finding adequate covering material is quickly apparent. Fortunately, a local engineering firm is pleased for the Council to accept, at a small charge, large quantities of mould sand, which makes an excellent temporary covering, pending final reinstatement with suitable soil covering.

This method of disposal has made excessive demands on the earth-moving vehicle which the Council has had in use since February, 1961, and even with quite considerable overtime, mostly at weekends, the machine has not been able adequately to cope with the seven refuse tips.

The Council has, therefore, wisely allowed for the purchase of a further earth-moving machine in the 1965/6 estimates, and with this additional machine the task of satisfactorily restoring the land following tipping should be accomplished.

SALVAGE OF WASTE PAPER.

In 1963, some 192 tons of baled waste paper was sold to the paper mills, for £1152.0.0. A further drop in tonnage occurred in 1964, despite the re-organisation of the service, when 168 tons were collected, for which £1029.0.0. was received.

The unsatisfactory results are almost entirely due to labour difficulties. A very good workman, who had undertaken the baling of the waste paper for several years, left the employ of the Council to take up a new position as lorry driver at a much higher salary than he was receiving from the Council, even with the addition of bonus and overtime.

The word "conscientious" does not mean anything to some employees in these days of full employment, and until I am able to obtain the services of reliable men, this service will not function satisfactorily and profitably.

THE LITTER PROBLEM.

During the year, a great deal of litter has been picked up from roadside verges and ditches; at one time, it was hardly possible to inspect a one-hundred-yard stretch without finding litter.

In the past, there has been a tendency to blame townsfolk for much of this, but it is becoming increasingly evident that countryfolk are responsible for a considerable proportion. It is a common sight to see fertiliser and feeding-stuff bags on the verges, in ditches, blown against hedges and in fields, along with pieces of plastic sheeting now used for covering haystacks. Many of the oil-drums and tins, barbed wire and other metal scrap, have so obviously been discarded by the farming community at the point where the articles are no longer required. I suggest that it might help if manufacturers were asked to print an anti-litter request on the bags.

Also, I would suggest that, complementary to the admirable but voluntary "Best-Kept Village" scheme, there should be the award of a public rebuke for the worst-kept piece of countryside, and that inspections should take place in January, when there is no undergrowth mercifully hiding the rubbish.

The itinerant scrap dealers, with their motor-drawn caravans and cavalcades of lorries, who park on the most convenient grass verge or common for a few days whilst their families rove the towns and villages in the immediate vicinity, are a continual nuisance. Their miscellany of scrap, rags, and other discarded articles which may earn them a shilling or so, is sorted, and anything of no value is thrown into the nearest ditch or hedgerow. This form of trading is on the increase, and these people are quite insensitive to an appeal to leave the countryside free from litter.

The Public Cleansing Department is being called upon constantly to clear up this litter, but no-one is prepared to lay information to secure a prosecution under the Litter Act.

Evidence of the deposit of litter on the public highway produced by members of my staff, did lead eventually to two successful prosecutions by the police against the offenders.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

During 1964, 123 householders took advantage of the Council's scheme for sale and delivery of dustbins at cost price, plus 3/- delivery charge, and 114 large and 19 small dustbins were sold.

The position with regard to the use of regulation dustbins has been maintained, although there is a minority of householders who will not recognise the need for a hygienic, impervious dustbin of regulation size with a closely fitting lid.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Seven temporary public health licences have been issued, authorising the siting of single caravans for short durations on individual house plots where permanent dwellings were being erected by means of self help.

Two public health licences were also issued to enable five caravans to be stationed at Beechfield House and five at Monks Park, Corsham, for the use of students of the Bath Academy of Art, until the end of this year.

Enforcement Action.

Prosecution proceedings were contemplated against the occupiers of caravans stationed on unauthorised sites at Compton Bassett, and Potley Lane, Corsham. In the first case, the Council provided alternative accommodation at the Goatacre Caravan Site, and the occupier of the caravans at Potley Lane provided permanent housing accommodation for his family.

Parishes in which new temporary public health licences were issued.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>
Colerne	2	2
Corsham	4	12
Kington Langley	1	1
Pewsham	1	1
Yatton Keynell	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>17</u>

The total numbers of public health licences for caravan sites which are still current in the various parishes are as follow:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Licences</u>	<u>No. of Caravans</u>
Box	4	33
Bremhill	3	3
Calne Without	1	1
Colerne	6	27
Corsham	10	18
Heddington	1	1
Hilmarton	2	2
Kington Langley	2	2
Iacock	3	3
North Wraxall	2	2
Pewsham	1	1
Sutton Benger	1	1
Yatton Keynell	1	1
Totals:	<u>37</u>	<u>95</u>

Five individual caravan sites in the Parishes of Bremhill, Colerne and Compton Bassett, have been vacated since their temporary public health licences have expired.

In addition to the private sites listed on the previous page, the Council has 92 standings for caravans at four sites situated at Northleaze, Bradford Road, Corsham, (64), Clarkes Leaze, Yatton Keynell, (11), College Green, Sutton Benger, (12), and Harts Close, Goatacre, near Hilmarton, (5). The establishment of these caravan sites by the Council has made the task of controlling the indiscriminate siting of caravans much easier, and has materially helped the planning authority to come to decisions in relation to applications for the stationing of caravans on land in the Rural District.

I have noticed that the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in making his decisions on planning appeals in connection with the siting of caravans in this district, has had regard to the availability of the caravan sites provided by the Council, and his decisions have invariably supported the Council's policy on strict caravan control.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

WATER ACT, 1945.

The North Wilts Water Board now being the responsible authority for the supply and distribution of water within the Rural District, the Council's public health duties generally are to ensure that every property within a reasonable distance of public water mains is either connected to such mains, or is supplied with a pure and wholesome supply of water from some other satisfactory source.

On instructions from the Medical Officer of Health, routine samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at fixed intervals of a week or month, from specially selected points in the Rural District, to ensure that the water in the mains is free of organisms which might be harmful to the general public; this sampling is additional to that undertaken by the Water Board.

The Water Board receives copies of all these bacteriological reports, and comparator readings, indicating the amount of free chlorine in the water from the main reservoirs, are sent weekly to the Board. All sampling of public water sources for chemical analysis is undertaken by the Water Board.

Analysis of Results of Samples.

		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Widdenham, Box		56	4
Washwells, Box		12	2
Goodshill, Corsham		16	1
Nettleton		11	1
Biddestone	(Chippenham Borough)	2	1
Grittleton	{ " " }	4	-
Stanton St. Quintin	{ " " }	4	1
Sutton Benger	{ " " }	3	-
East Tytherton, Bremhill	{ " " }	4	-
Burton	(West Glos. Water Co.)	11	-
Yatesbury, Cherhill	(R.A.F.)	12	-
Theobalds Green, Calne	(Calne Borough)	12	1
Langley Burrell	(Harris's)	4	-

Eastern Area Water Scheme:

Hilmarton	13	-
Cherhill	3	-
Bremhill	3	-
Foxham	5	-
Heddington	4	-
Compton Bassett	5	-
Bowden Hill	45	-
Fiveways, Hawthorn	44	1
Yewstock, Chippenham	38	1
Slaughterford	3	1
Private supplies	5	4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.(1) Section 39: Provision of Satisfactory Drainage.

It has been found necessary to recommend the issue of several statutory notices in connection with properties not provided with satisfactory means of drainage. In certain instances, these notices have been issued with the concurrence of the owners, who have been pensioners and unable to meet the capital cost of the work. The Council has carried out the work in default after obtaining competitive tenders and the cost of doing the work has been recovered in instalments over agreed periods, or the cost has been made a charge on the property.

These notices have been issued on owners of properties in the parishes of Box, Bremhill, Castle Combe, Corsham, and Yatton Keynell.

(2) Section 44: Provision of Water Closets.

Under similar circumstances to those referred to in the previous paragraph, statutory notices have been issued on owners of property not provided with adequate closet accommodation. In two instances the necessary work has been carried out in default, whilst in the other two cases the period allowed in the statutory notices for the work to be completed has not expired, but the work will be put in hand early in 1965.

(3) Section 259: Abatement of Nuisance caused by Foul Drainage Matter in Ditch.

A ditch at West End Farm, Foxham, which has been the cause of a recurring drainage nuisance for many years, became in such a foul condition that the owner was called upon to disconnect all farm drainage from the ditch and convey the same to a new disposal system on land on the opposite side of the highway.

By the end of the year this new drainage disposal system had been put into operation and conditions in the offending ditch had considerably improved. It is hoped that the Wilts County Council, as the Highway Authority, will eventually pipe approximately 100 yards of this ditch, which runs in front of several dwellinghouses.

(4) Section 260: Insanitary Condition of Village Pond.

At the request of the Kington Langley Parish Council, the Council has undertaken to cleanse the village pond on the Common, which has become grossly polluted over the years by the discharge of certain drainage matter and by the disposal of an assortment of disused household articles and scrap.

The work of cleansing will be put in hand at a convenient time during the summer of 1965. The provision of main drainage in the village during 1965 should enable the present drainage discharge to be disconnected from the pond.

(5) Section 58: Ruinous and Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites.

It has not been necessary to take any statutory action under the provisions of this section of the Public Health Act.

(6) Sections 83-85: Filthy and Verminous Premises, or Articles, and Verminous Persons.

This disagreeable aspect of public health is, fortunately, fast disappearing, like the privy-vault, and the Public Health Department is very rarely called upon to deal with a seriously-infested verminous place or person. Minor infestations crop up from time to time, but with modern methods of treatment these complaints present no problem.

(7) Section 92: Dust Nuisance Complaint, Westwells Crushing Plant.

One of the main industries in the Corsham and Box area of the Rural District is the Bath Stone Quarrying Industry.

During the 1939-45 war period, the Stone Industry set up a plant at Westwells to convert the quarry waste into an agricultural lime product to be used for land treatment. The business expanded, and by so doing, a form of atmospheric pollution developed, which at certain times became unbearable to residents of Westwells, being in close proximity to the plant.

Various negotiations continued over a period of years, whereby the Company undertook to carry out certain suggestions to reduce this dust nuisance. The prolonged fine summer of 1964 aggravated the situation to such an extent that the Council felt obliged to consider statutory action to abate the dust nuisance complaint.

The proposal of the Company to undertake the installation of additional high-efficiency cyclones in an endeavour to mitigate the nuisance has been accepted by the Council, and it is sincerely hoped that when these cyclones have been installed, the cause of the complaints will have been removed.

(8) Section 107: Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trade establishments in this District, such as are defined by the above Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries have been made into seven cases of scarlet fever, and three suspected cases of meningitis, one of which was reported to be negative. Routine enquiries were also made into two cases of tuberculosis, one typhoid fever contact, and one salmonella poisoning. Minor outbreaks of dysentery have been notified in various parishes, and 24 cases investigated.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are three fish-and-chip shops in the Rural District, situated at Box, Colerne and Corsham. Improvements to the preparation room at the Colerne fish shop were carried out during the year. With the continued demolition of the bungalows at Boxfields, it is anticipated that the shop situated in that area may close sometime during 1965.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Some 268 visits have been made to the 125 food premises in the Rural District, to ensure that the hygiene requirements of the above legislation are being complied with. Twenty-one inspections have been made of mobile shops and food delivery vans.

The previous level of hygiene in these shops has been maintained and even improved, and I am sure this improvement in conditions and service will continue; indeed, the public will demand that this will be so. Consumer protection organisations are ever watchful that the standard of production of foodstuffs and of food premises is maintained, and this awareness of the public is a great help to the Public Health Department in this branch of our work.

I wish that more members of the public would report to this department when they have some doubts as to the quality or condition of goods purchased from food premises. Two food complaints brought to the attention of the department resulted in prosecution proceedings being taken against the suppliers, concerning the sale of a walnut cake, and mould in pork pies. The prosecutions were successful and fines imposed of £10.0.0. and £1.0.0. respectively.

The food premises within the Rural District consist of:

Grocers	16
General stores	58
Sweets and ices shops ...	13
Butchers... ..	11
Bakers	8
Fish and fruit shops ...	6
Restaurants and cafes ...	9
Fish and chip shops ...	3
Confectioners... ..	1
Total:	<u>125</u>

Condemned Foods.

During 1964, the following foodstuffs were inspected by the Public Health Inspectors, condemned and subsequently surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:

1 x 6lbs. tin corned beef.....punctured.
 1 x 4lbs. tin sandwich ham....punctured.
 1 x 4lbs. tin chopped pork....split seam.
 1 x 4lbs. tin pressed ham.....punctured.
 1 x 16lbs.tin ham.....putrefaction.

Aberdeen Typhoid Outbreak.

Following the outbreak of typhoid fever at Aberdeen, which was traced to contaminated corned beef, circular letters were sent to all premises in the district which I considered might carry stocks of this commodity. These were followed up by personal calls, which resulted in twelve suspect tins being withdrawn from stock. Over 200 visits were made by my staff in this connection.

Food Hygiene Talks.

By agreement with the Wilts County Council, my Public Health Inspectors gave talks to kitchen staffs at the Secondary Modern Schools in Corsham during the year. It would appear that these talks, to two or three schools a year, are to become an annual event; I am thoroughly in agreement with this and am pleased to co-operate.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1959.

There are now 88 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

Applications were received for the registration of six additional premises in the following parishes:-

Calne Without, Derry Hill (1)	Nettleton, Burton (1)
Corsham (2)	North Wraxall (1)
Grittleton (1)	

Premises registered for the Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream.

Biddestone.....	1	Heddington.....	2
Box.....	14	Hilmarton.....	2
Bremhill.....	3	Kington Langley.....	3
Calne Without.....	2	Kington St.Michael.....	2
Castle Combe.....	4	Iacock.....	5
Cherhill.....	6	Langley Burrell Without.	1
Chippenham Without....	-	Nettleton.....	4
Christian Malford.....	2	North Wraxall.....	2
Colerne.....	4	Pewsham.....	1
Compton Bassett.....	2	Stanton St.Quintin.....	1
Corsham.....	19	Sutton Benger.....	3
Grittleton.....	2	Yatton Keynell.....	3

Sampling of Ice-Cream.

A fairly comprehensive programme has been undertaken during the year with regard to the sampling of ice-cream, with the following results:-

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Grade I	146	165
Grade II	11	9
Grade III	--	--
Grade IV	--	--

These results are excellent, and indicate that this product is manufactured, stored and sold under very satisfactory conditions.

This industry is now well-established and organised, and the manufacturing and storage facilities today are far superior to those which appertained immediately post-war, when conditions were so unsatisfactory that the Heat Treatment Regulations of 1947 were passed by the Government of the day.

LICENSED PREMISES.

There are now 61 licensed premises in the Rural District, and 45 visits of inspection were made to them during the year.

The licence for one public house situated in Nettleton was given up.

The modernisation of three licensed premises at Calne Without and Corsham has considerably improved the amenities at these premises.

BAKEHOUSES.

The eight bakehouses in this district have received routine visits. Improvements to the bakehouse at Bremhill have been suggested, and the work is in hand.

The bakehouses are situated at:-

Bremhill..... 2	Colerne..... 1
Castle Combe... 1	Corsham 3
Cherhill..... 1	

No bakehouses have closed down during the past year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955; SECTION 63.

The licence for the Knacker's Yard at Heddington has again been renewed, following a satisfactory report on conditions there. Five visits were made to the premises during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS, 1958.

The return of horses slaughtered by the Heddington Knacker's Yard showed that 23 horses were slaughtered during the year, 18 on farm premises and 5 at the knacker's yard. A total of 34 carcasses was received at the Knacker's Yard.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS, 1958; SECTION 19.

Six slaughterman's licences were issued under these Regulations, all the men being experienced slaughtermen employed at the Heddington Knacker's Yard.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958.SLAUGHTERHOUSES (REPORTS) DIRECTION, 1959.

There are no slaughterhouses in this Rural District. All those slaughterhouses which existed prior to 1939 and subsequently closed during the period of the centralisation of slaughtering, have never re-opened.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No. of Registered Dairies..... 15
No. of Registered Distributors..... 20

There have been 72 routine inspections of these premises during 1964. A more satisfactory dairy for the storage of milk was provided by a milk distributor at Gastard, Corsham.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

These Regulations re-enact, with amendments, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960. One of the principal changes involves the designation of "Tuberculin-Tested" milk, which has now been replaced by the term "Untreated" milk as the special designation for raw milk. On and after 31st December 1964, all raw milk must be labelled "Untreated".

Two applications for Dealers (Untreated) Milk Licences to use the designation "Untreated Milk" were issued to owners of dairies at Calstone and Corsham. One dealer at Yatton Keynell has ceased to supply raw milk.

Milk Sampling for Statutory Examination.

Routine milk samples have been taken each month from distributors of milk licensed by the Council, and during the year 255 samples were sent to be tested at the Public Health Laboratory at Bath. Reports on these samples were as follows:-

Satisfactory 250 (278 in 1963)
Unsatisfactory ... 5 (8 in 1963)

The County Council co-operates with the Council in the sampling of milk and makes a contribution of 12/6d. per sample towards the cost incurred in this work.

The results are very satisfactory and reveal that milk is generally processed, bottled and distributed in accordance with the Regulations.

Bottle Rinses.

As a check on the effectiveness of bottle sterilisation, milk bottle rinse series are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for testing. Of the 20 bottles sent for test, 19 were found to be satisfactory and one failed. The test applied to these bottles is a "plate count" and bottles with a count of less than 600 colonies are regarded as having been satisfactorily washed and sterilised.

Milk Sampling for Biological Examination.

In addition to the routine sampling of the various designated milks, biological samples of raw milk have been taken. Some 29 visits were made to dairies of milk producers supplying T.T. milk to retailers in this district, and 81 churn samples have been taken and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath; all results on these proved negative to tuberculosis.

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus.

The milk samples taken for biological examination are also subject to tests for brucella abortus. In all, 29 such samples have been taken and all have proved negative.

Bacteriological Examination of Cream and other Foods.

Throughout the country, milk, ice-cream and water are regularly sampled, and bacteriologically examined or tested in the prescribed manner to ensure that it is fit for human consumption, and I have felt for some time that similar attention should be paid to other foods, such as cream, cooked meats, fish paste, prepared foods, etc.

A small beginning has been made on this work, and with the concurrence of the Public Health Laboratory, I hope to expand the scope of this sampling.

During 1964, foods which were sampled included sliced, cooked ham, and fresh double cream. At present there are no bacteriological standards for this type of food, but the colony counts in respect of specimen of sliced, cooked ham were as high as 12,500,000 colonies per gram; no organisms of food poisoning groups were isolated.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in this Rural District.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

As I have stated in the preface to this report, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is new legislation, of which certain sections, including the requirement to register premises, came into force on the 1st May 1964, and most of the main provisions became effective as from the 1st August 1964.

This is an important piece of legislation, which will improve the working conditions of many hundreds of thousands of people employed in offices, shops and railway premises. It is legislation which has been overdue for many years, because conditions in such premises, particularly in large cities and industrial areas, have been far from satisfactory.

The problem associated with office conditions is not so great in this district, and results of preliminary surveys support my opinion. Nevertheless, certain improvements will be required to some premises, and preliminary informal letters have already been sent to owners of some of the offices and shops so far surveyed. The main requirements have been related to sanitary accommodation and the provision of adequate first-aid equipment.

In order to secure registration of all offices, shops, etc., I found it necessary to forward registration forms and letters of explanation to all owners of such premises, to achieve a quick registration. The response was good, but personal visits had to be made to a number of premises before registration was made.

Close liaison has been made with the County Fire Authority and with H.M. Inspector of Factories on aspects of this work, in which we have a common interest.

The details given in the following tables contain the prescribed particulars which have to be included in the annual report to be submitted to the Ministry of Labour in accordance with Section 60 of the Act:-

Table A:Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No. of prem- -ises regist- -ered during the year.	Total no. of registered premises at end of year.	No. of regist- -ered prem- -ises receiv- -ing general inspection during year.
Offices	25	25	7
Retail shops	80	80	27
Wholesale shops, warehouses	5	5	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	16	16	2
Fuel storage depots	4	4	3

Table B:

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors
to Registered Premises 85

Table C:Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace.	No. of persons employed.
Offices	224
Retail shops	233
Wholesale departments, warehouses	41
Catering establishments open to the public	96
Canteens	3
Fuel storage depots	12
Total:	609
.....	
Total males:	287
Total females:	322

Table D:Exemptions;

Part I: Space (Section 5(2)) Nil
Part II: Temperature (Section 6) Nil
Part III: Sanitary conveniences (Section 9) .. Nil
Part IV: Washing facilities (Section 10) Nil

Table E:

Prosecutions: Nil.

Table F:

No. of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act.. 4
No. of other staff employed for most of their time on work in
connection with the Act Nil

SHOPS ACT, 1950; SECTION 38.

Work in connection with routine inspections of shops has been curtailed because of pressure of other work, particularly that associated with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Many shops have been visited under the latter Act and I am satisfied that the sanitary and other arrangements required by Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, meet the requirements of the Act. Two visits have been made in connection with this work.

RENT ACT, 1957; SECTION 1 and FIRST SCHEDULE.

No applications by tenants for Certificates of Disrepair have been submitted for action by the department.

HOUSING ACTS, 1957-1964.HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

The following statistics in relation to housing, slum clearance, Discretionary and Standard Grants, summarise the concerted action taken by the Council under this legislation.

The important provisions of Part II of the Housing Act, 1964, relating to the compulsory improvement of dwellings to provide standard amenities, has been brought to the attention of the Council and I am hoping in 1965 to present details of a survey to be undertaken in part of the Parish of Corsham, in connection with the possible designation of that area by the Council as a Declared Improvement Area. This pilot scheme will be followed by further surveys of other selected areas, as directed by the Council.

<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Applications received for conversion (houses)	3	1
" " " improvements (")	45	40
Approvals for conversion of owner/occupied property (")	-	-
" " " " other property (")	3	1
Approvals for improvement of owner/occupied property (")	18	14
" " " " other property (")	25	26
Amount of Grants approved for conversions £1,500		£267
" " " " improvements £14,659		£14,128
No. of applications made during year which were refused or withdrawn	1	-
Grants completed	48	48
Amount of Grants paid	£16,816	
No. of premises inspected re Improvement Grants	169	

<u>Standard Grants.</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Applications received (houses)	41	47
Applications approved - owner/occupied houses (")	26	30
" " - other houses (")	11	13
No. of applications made during year which were refused or withdrawn (")	5	4
No. of houses improved	31	40
Amount of Grants paid	£4,250	£5,184
No. of baths or showers provided	27	39
" " wash-hand basins "	29	30
" " water-closets "	28	34
" " hot water supplies "	30	37
" " food stores "	24	33

<u>Housing Statistics.</u>	<u>1964</u>
No. of permanent dwellings in district at end of year (6987 (domestic)
" " " " local authority owned (1115 (agricultural)
" " temporary " " " " "	1564
" " applications for Council houses at end of year	639
	392

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

No. of dwellings inspected for defects under Public Health Acts	18
" " " " " " " " Housing Acts	62
" " " reported not to be reasonably fit for human habitation	34
" " " rendered fit and defects remedied in consequence of informal action	7

Action under Statutory Powers.(1) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Sections 9,10 and 12.

No. of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
" " dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners	-

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

No. of dwellings where formal notices were served	5
" " " rendered fit as a result of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by local authority in default of owners	2

(3) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Section 16.

No. of Demolition Orders made	7
" " houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	4
" " Undertakings to make fit accepted	3
" " Undertakings completed	7
" " Undertakings not to re-let accepted	-

(4) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Sections 42,43,46 and 48.

No. of houses in Clearance Areas upon which Demolition Orders have been made	Nil
" " houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	Nil
" " houses in Clearance Areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation	Nil

(5) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Sections 17,18 and 27.

No. of dwellings where Closing Orders were made	5
" " dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners	3
" " dwellings where Undertakings not to re-let were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	1
" " dwellings demolished which had previously been reported to be closed	-

(6) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957, Section 76.

No. of cases of overcrowding at the end of the year	Nil
" " " " " discovered during the year	Nil
" " " " " abated during the year	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936; SECTION 237.COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No Common Lodging Houses are registered in this District.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The Council is fortunate in not having any factories which are likely to require formal action under the provisions of the Clean Air Act. The Council continue to be Members of the Bristol and West Clean Air Committee and your representatives have attended all meetings of the Committee held at Bristol during the year.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE) PROVISIONS ACT, 1956.

No complaints have been received from employees in the agricultural industry with reference to unsatisfactory sanitary facilities at farm premises.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

Five licensees treating animal food waste have relinquished their licences during the year. Nine establishments remain on the register, and these have all been visited to ensure that the provisions of the Order are being met. Two large piggeries at the Royal Air Force Stations at Colerne and Yatesbury closed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

Last year, three licences were recommended in respect of premises at Box, Christian Malford and Kington Langley, subject to schedules of conditions. Four further boarding establishments were recommended for licensing at Box, Corsham, Chippenham Without and Nettleton; at the latter establishment, improvement work to the kennels has been requested.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no pet shops in the Rural District.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

There are now 82 factories registered in the Rural District, 14 of which are on Crown property. During the year, 13 inspections have been made of factory premises, principally in relation to the maintenance of satisfactory sanitary facilities for employees.

Certain temporary factories on the Council's Leafield Trading Estate are being demolished and new factories are being built on the estate.

Situation of Factories.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of Factories or Workplaces.</u>	<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of Factories or Workplaces.</u>
Biddestone	2	Heddington	1
Box	15	Hilmarton	1
Bremhill	1	Kington Langley	1
Calne Without	2	Kington St. Michael	1
Castle Combe	1	Lacock	1
Cherhill	2	Nettleton	3
Chippenham Without	1	North Wraxall	1
Christian Malford	3	Stanton St. Quintin	4
Colerne	5	Sutton Benger	3
Corsham	33	Yatton Keynell	1

Home Work - Section 133, Outworkers.

There are seven outworkers now registered in this district, six in Corsham and one in Yatton Keynell; all are engaged in glove-making.

The closure of the Foston Glove Factory has considerably reduced the number. Many women are engaged at home in trimming rubber articles, but registration of this occupation is not required under the Factories Act, although for some reason best known to those in authority, it is considered necessary to register persons engaged on work in connection with the making of iron and steel cables and chains, iron and steel anchors, and grapnels.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Your Rodent Officer has been kept very busy on the inspection of residential properties, business premises and farms. He has also kept a close watch for rat and mice infestations on all Council properties, including sewage disposal works, Pickwick Depot, the Salvage Depot, Bradford Road, Corsham, and all housing estates. I regard the employment of a Rodent Officer as most important, as it is only by constant survey and treatment, that infestations of rodents can be kept under control.

A schedule containing details of the work carried out by the Rodent Officer during the year, is given overleaf.

	Local Authority properties.	Agricultural properties.	Business and other properties.	Council houses.	Private houses.	Totals.
<u>No. of Properties inspected:</u>						
following notification	15	5	38	38	80	176
with major infestations of rats	1	1	5	5	3	15
with minor infestations of rats	9	4	20	13	42	88
with major infestations of house mice	-	-	-	2	1	3
with minor infestations of house mice	-	-	6	4	9	19
<u>No. of Properties surveyed:</u>						
as required by Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	31	160	128	151	15	485
with major infestations of rats	1	2	3	1	-	7
with minor infestations of rats	3	25	5	-	9	42
with major infestations of house mice	-	-	1	-	-	1
with minor infestations of house mice	-	-	1	-	1	2
No. of inspections and re-inspections	134	176	186	206	116	818
No. of properties treated	14	1	31	25	54	125
No. of treatments and re-treatments	25	2	40	29	60	156
Total no. of visits re rodent control	295	196	280	271	285	1327
Total no. of visits re other pests	-	-	-	1	-	1

Sewer Test Baiting and Treatment.

All the Council sewers were test-baited during April and May, and full details of the results were forwarded to the Pest Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Gloucester.

Summary of Test-Baiting Results:

Area of Test Baiting.	No. of Manholes baited.	Takes.	Bait Base.
Biddestone	8	Nil	Oatmeal
Box	61	9	"
Boxfields to Thingley (ex-Ministry sewers)	28	Nil	"
Castle Combe	11	Nil	"
Colerne	11	Nil	"
Corsham	55	Nil	"
Lacock	11	Nil	"
Studley - Derry Hill	16	Nil	"
Yatton Keynell	9	Nil	"

Summary of Sewer Treatments:

Area of Test Baiting.	No. of Manholes Baited.	Takes - complete or partial:				Poison.
		1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	
Bargates, Box	7	4p	4p	4p	Nil	Zinc Phosphide.
Rudloe Housing Site	11	5c	5p	5p	Nil	Zinc Phpsphide.

